



CERN signs up Rackspace for hybrid cloud collaboration

News Jane McCallion, July 1, 2013



Cloud handshake

CERN openlab is the framework through which the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) tests and validates new technologies in partnership with private industry.

Speaking to *Cloud Pro*, Tim Bell, infrastructure manager at CERN, explained: "[The framework allows] CERN and commercial organisations to do combined research.

"This gives us the opportunity to take the extreme computing challenges that come from the [Large Hadron Collider](#) (LHC) and are able to then apply those both to areas of interest to CERN and areas of interest for the company in a research environment."

According to the organisations, the collaboration between Rackspace and CERN will create a federated service between the research organisation's existing OpenStack-powered cloud, and Rackspace's private and public cloud set-ups.

Additionally, Bell said the solution will also help bring together the existing OpenStack-powered private [clouds](#) into a more unified and interoperable network.

"At the moment, our clouds appear to our users as completely independent and isolated computing resources," said Bell.

"What we want to investigate [with Rackspace] is if we can provide a more consistent view of these resources, such that users can take advantage of the resources in one cloud to run a workload in another," he said.

Nigel Beighton, vice president of technology at Rackspace, told *Cloud Pro* he was looking forward to collaborating with CERN and believes it will help the company understand working at mass scale.

Mixed approach will further scientific research, organisations claim

CERN openlab has signed a year-long collaboration agreement with [Infrastructure-as-a-Service \(IaaS\)](#) provider [Rackspace](#) to develop a hybrid [cloud](#) system to help further the centre's research into the origins of the universe.

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He also claims that, while the scale is different, the sharing of data with other organisations and into public clouds done by CERN is similar to what other Rackspace customers want to do.

“This piece of research and development with CERN allows us to look at how we can enable customers to really use cloud in that proper utility model.

“Another reason to work with CERN in cloud is about doing things at a mass scale and there are not many organisations you can work with that know how to do that from an engineering point of view. So it is great to be able to work with somebody who has a need to do this at a huge scale, as it really allows us to understand our own ideas and our own research and development,” he said.

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